

Borough



of Mossley.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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*March 2nd, 1914.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my Eighteenth Annual Report.

The number of births registered during the year 1913 was 287, 138 males and 149 females, a large increase on the number for the previous year which was 249, and on 1911 which was 275.

There were 19 illegitimate births registered, and 4 deaths of illegitimate children under 1 year of age, as compared with 9 registered and 3 deaths in 1912, and 10 registered and 4 deaths in 1911. The birth-rate for the year was 21·5 per thousand population, an increase on the previous year which was 18·7. The number of deaths belonging to the district was 204, 98 males and 106 females, being 3 more than the previous year, a large number of these, viz—63 were over 65 years of age. The death-rate was 15·3, practically the same as for the two previous years.

The natural increase at the end of the year being the excess of births over deaths was 83, as compared with 42 and 73 in previous years.

The district is a very hilly and straggling one covering 3929 acres, there is a great quantity of clay sub-soil and consequently a continued dampness. The chief industry is cotton spinning, for which the damp atmosphere is beneficial, there is also some woollen weaving and a small amount of iron founding. None of these trades are particularly injurious to the public health, though occasionally cases of Asthma are found due to the dust in the cardroom of the cotton mills, but are getting fewer owing to the more frequent use of exhaust fans in these rooms to extract the dust and so improve the conditions of the atmosphere.

House accommodation for the working classes is very fair and has been improved during the last few years by the building of a great number of cottages, many of them with three bedrooms; in place of dilapidated ones which have been pulled down. There are still a number of under-houses, but each year fewer of them are inhabited. There is still room for improvement in areas at the backs of many rows of cottages which are used in common and which ought to be paved or flagged and would greatly improve the sanitary condition of these places. There are a few crowded places, but the general surroundings of the cottages are clean.

House to house inspection has been carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances, a list of houses in which nuisances have been found is kept, and the necessary books, forms, &c., have been obtained.

During the year 154 houses were inspected, 6 considered unfit for human habitation. Representations were made to the authority in these six cases with a view to closing, but only 2 closing orders were made. Defects were remedied in 63 houses without making closing orders. None were made into a fit state of habitation after making closing orders, none were demolished. The general character of the defects found to exist were sanitary ones.

All plans for new houses are examined by the Surveyor and passed by the Council before they are erected, and on completion the premises are examined, all the drains tested and certificates granted.



The water supply is good and plentiful, the larger portion of the town being supplied from the Swineshaw Reservoirs and a smaller from Yeoman Hey. All the water from both supplies is filtered and treated to counteract the plumbo solvency. There have been no cases of lead poisoning attributable to the water during the year. The rainfall for the year was 34.45 inches as compared with 45.61 inches in 1912. and there were 198 rainy days.

Dairies, cowsheds and milk shops are periodically inspected and the cleanliness of the utensils noted. Their general condition is fairly good. We occasionally get cases of over-crowding which is attended to as soon as discovered. Regulations under the L.G.B. have been made and are enforced. In all new shippens 800 cubic feet of air space per cow is specified, but in existing ones 600 cubic feet is allowed. There are 38 cowkeepers on the register, 20 living in the Borough and 18 outside, and there are 4 purveyors of milk other than cowkeepers and all registered.

No action has been taken as to tuberculous milk. Food and milk samples are taken by the representatives of the County Council, there have been no prosecutions during the year. An Inspector who holds a special certificate for meat inspection examines the meat to be sold in the town, and if there is any doubt about any carcass the Veterinary Surgeon is called in to examine it, and if found diseased is seized and destroyed. In addition the Veterinary Surgeon periodically examines the meat. During the year 12 cwts. of meat, comprising two whole carcasses of cows, were condemned for tuberculosis and seized and destroyed. No legal proceedings were necessary as the carcasses were voluntarily surrendered by the butchers.

The matter of examining dairy cows in the district by the Veterinary Surgeon for tuberculosis has been discussed but nothing definite has yet been done. There are six slaughter houses but they are not visited by the Inspector at the time of slaughtering. 3 are in good condition and 3 are fair, and all are kept clean and regularly disinfected. There is no public abattoir.

There are 3 tripe dressing shops which are inspected and the cleanliness attended to.

The bake-houses are good, are inspected and cleanliness and regular whitewashing insisted on.

There are two registered lodging houses but they are only in a moderate condition.

The sewage is treated at the Sewage Works in septic tanks and filter beds and the character of the effluent is fair. The disposal of the excrement is mostly by the pail system emptied once a week. Of these closets there are 2868, of fresh water closets 243, of waste water closets 152. One privy midden has been converted to a pail and 14 pail closets to W.C's.

In the case of mills the Council has contributed towards the conversion of pail closets to water a sum equal to half the cost of connecting the closets to the sewer. House refuse is removed weekly to a tip as we have no destructor, but instructions have been given to each householder to burn all waste vegetable matter. The excrement from the pails is mixed with some absorbent material and sold as manure.

77 notices to abate nuisances were served and 63 were remedied. Legal proceedings were taken in 4 cases, 2 for firing chimneys were fined and 2 for overcrowding were adjourned.

The sanitary conditions of the Schools is good, each being disinfected once a week with a spray of carbolic fluid. The new school is now in use and has considerably improved matters. The water supply in each case is the town's. A system of notifying every case of infectious disease through the school authorities has led to the loss of attendances being greatly reduced as diseases which are not ordinarily notifiable now come to my notice as soon as they arise.

The usual infectious diseases are notified, and in addition ophthalmia neonatorum and all cases of tuberculous diseases.

There is an Isolation Hospital with 8 beds for the treatment of smallpox only. It is an old farm house, clean, and the accommodation is moderate but sufficient. There have been no cases of smallpox during the year.

Disinfection of bedrooms and houses is done by means of a spray of carbolic disinfecting fluid and in some cases with a solution of chlorine. All garments and bedding which cannot be boiled are taken to a room at the Sewage Works and put in the Delephine Thresh Disinfector.





All the rooms used by tubercular patients are now disinfected during temporary absences at sanatoria or after death. We have no hospital accommodation for these cases, but 4 cases have had sanatorium treatment. A place for the dispensary for the treatment of tuberculous cases has been decided on, and I hope will soon be put in operation. There were 16 cases of deaths from tuberculous diseases, compared with 17 in the previous year.

There were 78 cases of infectious disease notified during the year, a decrease on the previous one which was 94, 32 of these were of tuberculous diseases, the same number as in the previous year. The Yorkshire district of the town was freeest from infectious diseases of all kinds. The largest number of cases of any one disease was 28 of Scarlet Fever, which occurred during the whole year but did not assume an epidemic form at any time.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act and the Public Health Amendment Act are all in force in the district, but the Notification of Births Act has not been adopted, nor has a health visitor been appointed. Ophthalmia neonatorum and cerebro-spinal meningitis have been added to the list of notifiable diseases.

Arrangements have been made with Professor Delephine at the Laboratory of the Manchester University for the bacteriological examination of suspected cases of diphtheria, tuberculosis, &c., as well as typhoid, arrangements for which latter disease have existed for some years. During the year 3 specimens have been examined for typhoid fever, 2 gave a positive result.

The following table shews the number of cases notified and of deaths from infectious diseases :—

Diseases.				Notified Cases.				Deaths.			
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	2	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	0	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	28	..	..	...	...	0	
Enteric „	...	...	...	...	2	..	...	...	...	1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis			...	...	23	...	...	...	...	14	
Other forms of Tuberculosis			...	...	9	...	...	...	...	2	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			..	...	1	...	...	...	...	0	
Whooping Cough		...	...	...	0	...	...	...	...	2	
Measles	...	...	..	...	3	..	...	...	...	0	

In all cases where infectious disease was notified, the houses were visited by myself and the Inspector, disinfectants supplied, printed instructions to prevent the spread of the disease left, and at the termination of the cases the houses were again visited, sick rooms disinfected and the beds and bedding removed and disinfected in the steam disinfector. Of scarlet fever 28 cases were notified as compared with 53 in the previous year, they were all of a very mild type and there were no deaths.

Of diphtheria 5 cases were notified and there were 2 deaths. Two cases which occurred in one house were probably due to the insanitary state of the drains, and in the others the source of infection was not discovered.

Of enteric fever 2 cases were notified and there was one death. These two were brothers and there is a history of them having eaten shell fish about 8 days before the illness commenced and later some tripe which caused considerable abdominal pain, but nothing definite was discovered, and no other cases arose.

There were only a few cases of measles during the latter part of the year, and no deaths.

During February and March there was an epidemic of mumps which spread through all the schools of the town ; but was never serious enough to necessitate the closing of the schools.

A few cases of chicken pox occurred at the beginning and end of the year.

A few cases of whooping cough occurred at the end of the year and there were 2 deaths from this disease.

There were no cases of puerperal fever notified during the year and only one of ophthalmia neonatorum.



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The administration of the Midwives Act is under the jurisdiction of the Lancashire County Council.

With regard to the infant mortality, there were 34 deaths of infants under 1 year, the largest number since 1908 and 10 more than the previous year. Of these 30 were of legitimate and 4 of illegitimate infants, 18 of these occurred in the first month of life, and the cause of death in 15 was premature birth and congenital debility and of the older ones pneumonia 5 and enteritis 3.

I am continually visiting factories, &c., and wherever any nuisance is found attention is called to it and in addition regular inspections are made by the Nuisance Inspector.

House to house inspection is continually being carried out and defects remedied, the chief of which are bad drainage, dampness and unpaved back areas.

18 smoke observations of 30 minutes each have been made, and legal proceedings taken in one case in which a penalty of 2/6 and costs was imposed. The time allowed for the emission of black smoke is 10 minutes per hour.

Of the chief sanitary requirements of the district I think the most necessary are the closing of some more under houses and the paving of areas common to a number of cottages.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HEALEY, M.B., Ch.B.

*Medical Officer of Health.*





TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT			
		Un-corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	of Non-residents registered in the District	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	13838	323	323	23·3	219	15·8		24	37	114·5	243	17·5
1909	13937	298	298	21·3	199	14·3		19	29	97·3	218	15·6
1910	14007	282	282	20·1	166	11·8		25	27	95·7	191	13·6
1911	13205	272	275	20·8	172	13·0	1	31	27	98·1	202	15·3
1912	13271	246	249	18·7	175	13·1	3	35	24	96·3	207	15·5
1913	13326	284	287	21·5	176	13·2	0	28	34	118·4	204	15·3

Total Population at all ages, 13,205.      Number of inhabited houses, 3,152.      Average number of persons per house, 4·2.  
At Census of 1911.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 3929.



TABLE II.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of cases notified.								Total cases notified in each locality.			Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.							Lancashire Ward.	Cheshire Ward.	Yorkshire Ward.	
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards				
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	5		4	1					4	1		
Erysipelas .....	10				1	4	5		5	2	3	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	28	1	8	15	2	2			8	13	7	
Enteric Fever .....	2					2			2			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23			1	6	6	9	1	8	9	6	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis...	9	1		2	1	3	2		4	3	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonotorum	1	1							1			
Totals .....	78	3	12	19	10	17	16	1	32	28	18	9

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.—May Hills, Mossley, for Smallpox only,  
Union Hospital, Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester Royal Infirmary and Skin Hospital,  
Meathop, Aitken, Kingswood and Strinesdale Sanatoria.





## Causes of, and Ages at, Deaths during the Year 1913.

Cause of Death.	Nett Deaths at the Subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								
	All ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All causes { Certified .	203	34	6	3	4	4	23	66	63
{ Uncertified ...	1			1					
Enteric Fever ... ..	1						1		
Whooping Cough ... ..	2		1	1					
Diphtheria and Croup ...	2			2					
Influenza ... ..	2							2	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	14					2	5	6	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	1			1				
Cancer, malignant disease ..	18						2	10	6
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	2				1			1	
Meningitis ... ..	1							1	
Organic Heart Disease ..	21						2	10	9
Bronchitis .. ...	23	2					1	6	14
Pneumonia ... ..	15	5	2				1	6	1
Other diseases of respiratory organs ..	2								2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	7	3	2			1			1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	2				1		1		
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	18	1					3	11	3
Other accidents & diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition ..	6					1	5		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	19	19							
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ..	2		1		1				
Suicide ... ..	1							1	
Other Defined Diseases ..	42	1		1			2	12	26
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ..	2	2							
Totals ... ..	204	34	6	4	4	4	23	66	63
Sub-Entries included in above figures { Pneumonia ..		1						6	2



TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks & under 3 months.	3 months & under 6 months.	6 months & under 9 months.	9 months & under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
ALL CAUSES										
Certified ... ..	10	2	4	2	18	5	4	4	3	34
{ Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..										
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis . . . . .										
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..						1				1
Bronchitis ... ..			1		1				1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..							2	2	1	5
Enteritis ... ..						1	1	1		3
{ Congenital Malformations	2				2					2
{ Premature Birth .. ...	2	1	1	1	5	2				7
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	4	1	2	1	8	1	1			10
Other Causes ... ..	2				2			1	1	4
Totals ...	10	2	4	2	18	5	4	4	3	34

Nett Births in the year, legitimate, 268, illegitimate, 19.

Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 30, illegitimate infants, 4.





Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1913, for the Borough of Mossley.

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with  
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES & HOMEWORK.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.  (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories ... .. (Including Factory Laundries)	21	2	
Workshops ... .. (Including Workshop Laundries)	48		
Workplaces ... .. (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	0		
TOTAL ... ..	69	2	

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars.						Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
						Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
(1)						(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>									
Sanitary Accommodation	{	insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	2	2		
		unsuitable or defective ... ..	...	...	...				
		not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...				
Total ... ..						2	2		



3.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.									Number
(1)									(2)
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
	Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
	Total number of Workshops on Register	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90

Dated March 2nd, 1914.

JOHN HEALEY, M.B.







# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES, 1913.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Ninth Annual Report.

## DRAINAGE.

During the past year 12 houses have been connected to the main sewers, also the washing tanks at the sanitary yard. 5 lin. yds. of 15 in. pipes, 2 lin. yds. of 12 in. pipes, 329 yds. of 9 in. pipes, 160 lin. yds. of 6 in. pipes, 144 lin. yds. of 4 in. pipes. 46 street gullies and 23 gullies on private property.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

2 Notices have been received from the Factory Inspector re sanitary defects which have been remedied.

## DISINFECTION.

60 Rooms and 347 articles have been disinfected, and after every case of notifiable infectious disease disinfection of the house is carried out. All Schools in the Borough are disinfected once every week.

## LODGING HOUSES.

There are two registered lodging houses and though they are very old buildings and not designed for that purpose are in a fair state of repair and clean.

## NUISANCES.

There have been 77 notices served and in 63 cases have these nuisances been abated.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND TRIPE BOILING WORKS.

There are 6 slaughter houses registered and 3 tripe boiling places, all constantly under inspection, 2 tuberculous carcasses (cows) have been condemned, (weight 12 cwts). In both cases these carcasses were voluntarily surrendered by the butchers.

## BAKEHOUSES.

There are about 50 Bakehouses in the Borough, a large number of people baking in their own homes for sale in the immediate locality.

## SEWAGE WORKS.

The effluent from our Sewage Works during the middle of the week is not quite as good as it has been in the past, this is due solely to the large amount and difficulty in treating the wool scum from the Woollen Mills. I have no hesitation in saying were it not for the heavy tax put on your works in this direction your effluent would easily come within the required standard, but as it is at present I am told by one of the River Inspectors we have the worst sewage to treat in the water shed. I shall shortly be obliged to bring a scheme before your notice for enlarging the tanks and filters.



DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 22 farms, 60 cowsheds and 4 milkshops, 20 Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk in the Borough. 18 Cowkeepers and Purveyors of Milk who come into the town from outside districts. All are registered. The Committee recently made an inspection of the various farms.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

No outbreaks of Notifiable Disease have occurred. The Tuberculous Order came into operation on May 1st. Necessary forms and notices have been obtained and returns made each quarter.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

Several under houses have been inspected by the Committee. 2 houses have been closed, (one at Old Hollins and one back of Roughtown Tavern).

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

5 minutes black smoke are allowed during half an hour's observation.

FACTORIES.		DOMESTIC CHIMNEYS.	
No. of Observations	18	No. of Offences	22
„ „ Offences	7	„ „ Warning letters sent	20
„ „ Notices sent	7	„ „ Prosecutions	2
„ „ Prosecutions	1		

Yours faithfully,

R. H. BUCKLEY.

